

Application No.: 10/664,454
Amendment and Response dated September 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 10, 2005
Docket No.: 760-68
Page 2

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0003] Stents generally are open-ended and are radially expandable between a generally unexpanded insertion diameter and an expanded implantation diameter which is greater than the unexpanded insertion diameter. Stents are often flexible in configuration, which allows them to be inserted through and conform to tortuous pathways in the blood vessels. The stent is generally inserted in a radially compressed state and expanded either through a self-expanding mechanism, or through the use of balloon catheters. For example, various stents and their method of deployment are shown in U.S. Patent Nos. 4, 4,503,569 to Dotter; 4,733,665 to Palmaz; 4,856,516 to Hillstead; 4,580,568 to Gianturco; 4,732,152 to Wallsten and 4,886,062 to Wiktor. Published PCT WO 96/03092 A1, based on U.S. priority application Nos. 08/282,181 and 08/457,354, discloses a tubular shaped stent which is inflatable by a balloon and which shrinks minimally in the longitudinal direction during expansion. The foregoing WO publication and its U.S. priority applications, and the aforementioned U.S. patents are incorporated herein by reference. Additionally, published PCT WO 96/26689, entitled "Improved Longitudinally Flexible Expandable Stent" and being based on U.S. priority application Nos. 08/396,569 filed March 1, 1995 and 08/511,076 filed August 3, 1995, also discloses stents useful in the present invention, both the WO publication and its U.S. priority application being incorporated by reference herein.